A more responsive administration, and (iii) a change in some of the policies of the State Government related to non-timber forest products, land acquisition, restoration of alienated land and autnomy to village panchayats in financial matters.

Annual Growth Rate in GDP

†3639. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 6.5% growth forescast for next four years published in the business Standard dated 8th April, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the annual growth rate in the Gross Domestic Product of the country is estimated to increase by 6.5% by next four years; and

(c) if so, the assessment of Government in this regard togetherwith the details of growth rate likely to be in agriculture, service and industry sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINNSTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. A news report has stated that the economy is projected to grow at 6.5% per annum over the next four years, according to the medium term forecasts of the institute of Economic Growth (IEG).

(b) and (c) the Planning Commission do not make annual forecasts of growth rate of the economy. However, the average rate of economic growth (measured by Gross Domestic Product a factor cost) in the country has been projected as 6.5% per year for the Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-98 to 2001-2002). The growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors, industry and services as projected by the Plannng Commission for the Ninth Plan period are 3.9, 7.6 and 7.3 percent per annum respectively.

Mid-Term Appraisal of Ninth Plan

3640. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the major findings of the appraisal; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to achieve targets in major sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. exercise for the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan is currently in progress. The Editorial Committee of the Planning Commission, constituted for the Mid Term Appraisal Document, is in the process of finalising the draft chapters.

Special Category Status to Orissa

3641. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: whether Government have a proposal to grant special category status to Orissa;

(a) wehter Government have received any Memorandum from the State Government in this regard;

(b) if so, the action taken in that matter; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) The Government of Orissa had requested the Government of India in 1998 that Special category status may be granted to the Stape of Orissa. The Planning Commission has been receiving suggestions from various States/UTs for revision of the Gadgil Formula which is the basis for allocation of Central Assistance. It was decided that the request from the Government of Orissa would be examined in this context and a final decision would be taken after consideration by the National Development Council. The State Government was informed accordingly.